

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings or versions thereof:

1. (Currently amended) A vaccine ~~for alleviating or preventing autoimmune disorders induced by infection with Epstein-Barr virus comprising:~~
~~an Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) polypeptide or a component thereof in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier for administration of the virus or viral component in an amount and mode of administration effective to alleviate or prevent the autoimmune disorders, wherein epitopes of said EBV polypeptide reacting with antibody against an autoantigen are altered or deleted.~~
2. (Currently amended) The vaccine of claim 1, wherein ~~one or more structures of the Epstein-Barr virus are removed or altered to decrease the potential that the vaccine will induce an autoimmune disorder~~the altered or deleted epitope is one that reacts with an anti-Sm antibody.
3. (Currently amended) The vaccine of claim 1, wherein the ~~component of the Epstein-Barr virus is selected from the group consisting of peptides or proteins expressed from recombinant DNA or RNA with sequence identity to Epstein-Barr virus, viral DNA or RNA, and carbohydrate groups of the Epstein-Barr virus~~EBV polypeptide is altered.
4. (Currently amended) The vaccine of claim [[1]]5, wherein the ~~Epstein-Barr virus~~EBV polypeptide comprises ~~thea modified~~ nuclear antigen 1 protein ~~not including a peptide sequence selected from the group consisting of PPPGRRP, GRGRGRGG, and RGRGREK.~~
5. (Currently amended) The vaccine of claim 1 ~~in a pharmaceutical carrier for administration~~2, the altered or deleted epitope reacts with an anti-Sm B/B' antibody.

6-26. (Canceled)

27. (New) The vaccine of claim 1, wherein the EBV polypeptide is altered.